

# PREVAILING WIND

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## PEPLINSKI TAKES COMMAND OF 506TH

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

506th Air Expeditionary Group

In a 15-minute ceremony March 6, 2004, Col. Dan Peabody relinquished command of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group to Col. Michael Peplinski.

During his brief remarks, Col. Peabody reminded Air Expeditionary Group Silver members of his commitment to force protection, protecting airman and maintaining a mission force.

"To AEF (Air Expeditionary Force) Silver members, we clearly met the challenges. It was an honor and a privilege to serve

you and to serve with you," said Col. Peabody.

Col. Peabody addressed Col. Marke Gibson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, thanking Col. Gibson for having the trust and confidence in him to carry out his job.

Col. Gibson gave his remarks, which included praise for both commanders.

"My hat is off to Dan (Peabody) and the entire Silver rotation. You had a tough job, but contributed to the continuation of our history," Col. Gibson said.

He alluded to the fact that Col. Peabody has more than 3,000 flying hours in the A-10 aircraft.

"There aren't that many anymore," Col. Gibson remarked.

"As a member of the Tuskegee Airman," he said to the AEF 7/8 personnel, "I want you to continue the rich heritage they started."

At 2:10 p.m., Col. Peabody gave up the 506th AEG to Col. Gibson, who, in turn, presented it to Col. Peplinski.

It signified the end of the Silver AEF era, and symbolically lit the torch for AEF 7/8 to carry.

"You prepped this base in an outstanding manner for AEF 7/8 to arrive, and I wish you all a safe journey home," Col. Peplinski said to the Silver AEF members.

"We need to make sure we protect our assets as best as possible because I want everyone to make it home safe and sound," Col. Peplinski said, addressing the airman under his charge.

"I am also honored to serve in the 332nd Tuskegee Red Tails, and to serve you in the 506th Air Expeditionary Group," he concluded.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams



Left to right: Col. Marke Gibson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Col. Michael Peplinski, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, and Col. Dan Peabody, former 506th AEG commander.

Col. Marke Gibson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Cocommander (left) passes on the 506th Air Expeditionary Group guidon to Col. Michael Peplinski.



# Commander's Column

**By Col. Steve Krajnik**

*127th Mission Support Group Commander*



Let me take you back a couple months to the last week of February 2004. If you recall, the 127th Wing was in the middle of some major mobilization and deployment processing. We were swapping out folks for the C-130 Aviation Package, preparing some fifty or so Expeditionary Combat Support folks to head off to various locations, and had just completed the largest single aviation package deployment ever sent from Selfridge, that being of course, our F-16 Aviation Package.

By the time this article is published, these events are already two months old and the brave and gallant efforts of our members performing their wartime missions are the focus of our attention, as it should be. But I do believe we should reflect for a moment and record this major event in the history of Selfridge and the 127th Wing. Without the efforts of the entire wing, our folks would not be deployed to perform their wartime missions.

The tremendous effort it took to mobilize and deploy these folks was truly nothing short of outstanding and I, for one, was awed by the machine, the coordination, the support, and the sheer dedication it took to get our folks "out of Dodge." My hat's off to the members of the Deployment Control Center, Personnel Deployment Function, and Cargo Deployment Function, the Unit Deployment Managers and the Family Readiness Group who made this all happen. And talk about

your teamwork! Within this framework, we had Title 32 technicians and AGRs, traditional guardsmen, Title 5 and state civilians, and many volunteers, all working hand-in-hand to make this look like a choreographed event. It's just too bad the Phase I Mobility, Operational Readiness Inspection team wasn't here to witness it...

And speaking of ORIs ... the Air Combat Command units have their next inspections scheduled for August 2005. To best prepare for that inspection, we have scheduled Operational Readiness Exercises to take place at the Alpena CRTC for August of 2004 and April 2005. Each of the OREs is developed around what we expect the ORI schedule to look like. Therefore, you can expect our upcoming ORE to start with preparatory actions (getting the base ready), Phase I Mobility with mobilization and deployment processing (moving us from here to Alpena), regeneration of aircraft, a transition day full of evaluated exercises (for some), and then Phase II Employment (ability to survive and operate while performing our wartime missions). All this is planned for August 22 through September 2, with the bulk of the Mobility Phase occurring between August 26-28 (Thursday-Saturday) and the Employment Phase occurring August 30- September 2 (Monday-Thursday, with 1 weather back-up day).

See Commander's on **Page 6**



## ... From the Chief's Desk



**By Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Krajewski**

*127th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant*

I recently attended a memorial service for a man named John, whose friends called him Jack. I never knew Jack, but I did this as a professional courtesy to his son who I know. I learned that Jack and his wife retired in Florida and that he was not of good health for his last years. Even though he lived a thousand miles away, his children were there for him when he needed them the most.

During the eulogy I learned that Jack grew up in the Howell, Mich. area. He built his own home and completed it one month after his high school graduation. Jack married his high school sweetheart and together they raised a family. He retired as the highest ranking engineer at General Motors without a college degree. He also had numerous inventions to his credit. Through his family, I learned that Jack lived with integrity.

Jack loved to tinker with cars; he began to build racecars and engines with his family. Eventually many professional racecar drivers turned to Jack to build engines for their cars. I heard stories that these cars and engines were tested on Oak Grove Road in Howell because a test track wasn't available. Jack's many accomplishments spell excellence.

As I walked through the snow to my car I overheard a conversation among several men in their 50s. Apparently these were

the guys that drove the muscle cars in the 1960s. They recalled that Jack never turned away a teen that had trouble with their car. He taught them how to fix it and then made them fix it themselves. He always charged them for his time, usually 35 cents. This amount was enough to make them feel that his service wasn't a hand out, but low enough to assure them that they could come back again when they needed him. Jack practiced service before self.

Jack's son and his family drove all the way from Battle Creek, Mich. to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, just to say good bye to our Airmen and me when we departed for Iraq. Through his daughter-in-law I learned that Jack never served in the military. Jack was mentoring people long before the Air Force coined the term "mentor." Jack mentored his children, the youth in his neighborhood and those in his workplace. His son, Joe Layton, is now carrying on his father's legacy, serving as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 110th Fighter Wing.

How do you want to be remembered? Mentoring begins at home long before the Air Force ever gets to start working with young Americans. Integrity, service and excellence were Jack's core values. These values, the same as those of the Air Force, will help us to create our own legacy. Will we be remembered as the ones who transformed America's children into the patriots of the twenty-first century?



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For ideas or comments for the paper, e-mail the Prevailing Wind staff at:

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Deadline for June issue:

Saturday, May 1.

# WEATHER OR NOT TO INVADE

**By Master Sgt. Tony Randazzo**

*127th Wing PA NCOIC*

Being awarded the Bronze Star is a rare occasion in military service. But when an Air Guard unit has multiple recipients people start to take notice.

Four members of the 107th Weather Flight have been honored recently for unspecified meritorious service in the course of their duties during the current conflicts in southwest Asia. The specifics remain classified and under Air Force Special Operations Command rules, we cannot even mention the members' names.

According to Technical Sgt. "Greg", a 107th Weather Flight forecaster, the use of tactical weather intelligence is a huge part in planning successful military operations. Commanders need to predict factors such as rain, snow, wind and visibility when planning missions. Failure to do so can scatter airborne troops, increase the risk of planes or helicopters hitting mountain peaks, pose a risk for soldiers operating in high temperatures, and a host of other issues.

"We are the only guys that a commander can turn to for tactical weather information. We can infiltrate (a combat area) and extract with their Special Forces troops," said "Greg".

Deploying well in advance of invasions and raids, Special Operations Weather Teams often operate in small numbers with Navy SEALs and Army Special Forces. Their role is to provide real time tactical weather intelligence.

What is it like being blue in a green world? According to several 107th Weather Flight members, they take a lot of friendly ribbing from their brothers in green. But the Army really appreciates the

support of Air Force Forward Air Controllers, Para-Rescue and Combat Weather troops.

"We get much the same training in survival, infiltration, radios and infantry skills as the Army Special Forces," said "Greg." Essentially an airborne infantry unit, the combat weather team trains with small arms, squad tactics and an elaborate suite of electronic gadgets. To accomplish this training, they often partner with Army units across the country. Because of their unique training needs, many of the ancillary and unit related training objectives of the 127th Wing simply do not apply.

According to members of the 107th Weather Flight, over 40% of the missions performed by Air Force Combat Weather teams (a career field with approximately ninety members) are done in support of the Army. The 107th Weather Flight performs more like 95%, according to Major "Andrew," their commander.

"What I really would like the public to understand is that the Air Force has personnel who operate on the ground--not just in the air," states Major "Andrew." "We support the Army in small teams and are a part of the special operations community."

The distinguishing factor between Special Operations Weather Team members and other weather troops is that Special Operations Weather Team members infiltrate into enemy territory along with infantry units from allied Special Forces teams. They do this by parachute, small boat, all terrain vehicle, HUMVEE, on foot or even horseback.

Therefore, the question is: In a conflict, where will you find a Special Operations Weather Team member? Answer: Anywhere there is weather.



*Photo by Senior Airman Alec Lloyd*

**Four members of the 107th Combat Weather Flight receive their awards.**



# SENIOR NCO CONFERENCE IS A SUCCESS

By Senior Airman Alec Lloyd  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guard members from across the state recently gathered at the Michigan 2004 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Conference held at the Eagle Crest Conference Center in Ypsilanti, Mich., March 5-7.

The conference theme was "Patriots of the 21st Century." The gathering brought together a variety of speakers including Patricia J. Walker, deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs (materials and facilities) and Command Sergeant Major Lawrence W. Holland, senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Also attending were Michigan's senior leadership, including Adjutant General Major Gen. Thomas G. Cutler; Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brigadier Gen. Kencil J. Heaton; Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Adjutant General, Command Sergeant Major Miner W. Roth and Command Chief Master Sergeant for the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carol Smith, 110th Multimedia Support Center

**Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from around the state sign in at the SNCO Conference held at the Eagle Crest Conference Center in Ypsilanti, March 5-7.**

Michigan Air National Guard Chief Master Sergeant Michael R. Dalton.

The two-day event featured presentations ranging from the current vision and mission of the Michigan Air National Guard to more narrowly focused matters such as the advantages for younger members to attend Airman Leadership School.

Of particular interest was Walker's presentation on the challenges facing the reserve component, addressing aging airframes and the increased use of Air (National) Guard units. She noted that Michigan is quite competitive in its high-quality facilities and standards for readiness.

Holland expanded upon this theme, pointing out the increasing number of joint operations and also indicating that in-state joint training between the various branches is something to be expected in the future.

He also announced that new Common Access Cards will be issued, omitting the reserve or guard designation on them. From now on, they will only list the branch, such as Air Force or Army. This,

he said, emphasizes the increasing professionalism and importance of the reserve component.

Other presenters focused on the proud traditions of the past. Alexander Jefferson, a Tuskegee airman who flew 18 ½ missions in a P-51 Mustang during World War II, offered a historical perspective through his own experiences. His stunning account of being shot down over occupied France was one of the many highlights of the conference.

One of the innovations in this year's conference was the decision to allow selected technical sergeants to attend. As the senior NCOs of the future, these members found a conference a great learning experience.

"It feels really great to be included because we are leaders also and help shape young airmen," said Tech. Sergeant Bill Scalf of the 191st Maintenance Squadron. Tech. Sergeant William Kopchia, also of the 191st MXS, agreed.

"It was a motivational experience," Kopchia said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carol Smith

**Adjutant General Major Gen. Thomas G. Cutler addresses the SNCOs during the conference.**

# CSM HOLLAND SHARES VIEW FROM THE TOP

By Senior Airman Alec Lloyd

127th Wing Public Affairs

One of the speakers at the Michigan 2004 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Conference was Command Sergeant Major Lawrence W. Holland, senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. As the highest-ranking enlisted man in the reserve component, Holland has some unique insight into the challenges faced by the Air National Guard.

*Senior Airman Alec Lloyd:* How have Michigan's Guard troops represented themselves on their deployments? What have you heard about their skill levels, leadership and professionalism?

**Command Sergeant Major Holland:** Well, what we've heard overall, and I can address some of the issues for Michigan itself, is they've done outstanding. And we always discount the idea that a reservist or guardsman brings two skills to the table. It's not just your regular job, it's what you bring from your civilian life and your civilian experience. That's what's really helped us in Kuwait and in Iraq and then some of the Michigan guard personnel and reservists who have been in Afghanistan. So they've done very, very well and you all should be very proud of them.

*Lloyd:* What is the greatest challenge, in your opinion, facing the reserve component today?

**Holland:** The greatest challenge is, as we go through this next year to 24 months, seeing what kind of fallout we have from the amount of call-ups that we've had for the reserve components. We know that soldiers like to serve their country, but you must also understand that they have to serve a family, they have to serve a boss, they have to serve their civilian life. And some folks have some additional circumstances to their situation, whether or not it's through their job, they're trying to improve their education all at the same time, so we've just thrown a big rock in the middle of the road for them.

*Lloyd:* The Air Force is currently over strength. What do you think the impact of this will be on career fields and potential reenlistment bonuses for reserve components?

**Holland:** We do look at that. I sit on a council with the E-9s back at the Pentagon and what we're looking at is a promotion system. Now please understand, from normal attrition and rotation and retirements, that over strength of the Air Force will be brought down to the right levels. So we're not really concerned about that. And if you look at each of the grades, the category grades, you'll see that there's really not much of a problem except at maybe the higher grades, the E-8, the E-9 and we think that will work it's way out with the retirement system.

*Lloyd:* [Army Chief of Staff] General [Peter J.] Schoomaker has announced an increased emphasis on Army soldier skills. What are your impressions of Air Force soldier skills, particularly the National Guard and reserve components that have been activated? And do you foresee a similar emphasis on soldier skills for the Air Force reserve components?

**Holland:** Well, we all have to be prepared to fight, no matter what. It was amazing to me to have maintenance personnel show up in Karshi-Khanabad, in Uzbekistan - during the time when we fighting and going back and forth to Afghanistan - and they

showed up without weapons, without protective masks. So they were not really like they were coming to war; it's like they were coming to fix a plane. And that's great stuff, but today you have to be ready for anything. We are now training everyone who is going into a combat zone to be prepared and equipped with the best we can provide. The training has improved a lot from lessons learned from these two battles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because the reality of the world today is, if you are in a convoy, you have an 50 percent chance of being attacked.

An IED going ahead and exploding in front of you, behind you, or under you- and so you must be prepared, you must know how to react, and you must be trained to fight no matter what your service is. And I think that's a different mindset that we're going to have to take a little further than Gen. Schoomaker said, because we in the Army have always thought about ourselves as a soldier first, and then whatever your job skill is, then that's what you do after. But we all must be prepared to fight because we do not know where we're going to be, and what kind of situation we're going to be in, and how do you survive in that environment.

*Lloyd:* You also talked about jointness during your presentation. Do you expect joint training within the state guard and reserve organizations to become more common? We talk about it when they deploy, but do you see it happening before the deployment?

**Holland:** We're looking at a plan right now to do more joint training within the state between the army guard, the air guard, the Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps, etc. and then accelerate that to the total force, all over the globe, not just when you deploy, but even in an environment where you'd go to the National Training Center and jointly train together. We're also looking down the road, maybe in five or 10 years that we would add the Coalition partners to that. And that is very important, because during this combat situation, both in Iraq and in Afghanistan, we really had some challenges in communication with our Coalition partners, because the way they did business and we did business were different. It was a real learning experience on everyone's part.

*Lloyd:* Any final words?

**Holland:** Thanks to the Air National Guard personnel and their families for what they do for our country. Freedom is NOT free.



Photo by TSgt Carol Smith

**Command Sergeant Major Lawrence W. Holland, senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs talks to Michigan Senior NCOs at the SNCO Conference March 5-7**



# SELFRIDGE F-16s LAND IN KIRKUK

**Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams**  
*506th Air Expeditionary Group*

Air National Guard F-16 jets from the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., arrived in Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, March 1, 2004.

The aircraft will replace the A-10 aircraft of the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Kirkuk Air Base is now home to the first and only operational squadron of F-16s in Iraq.

"We're looking forward to a productive and successful deployment," said Lt. Col. Glenn Schmidt, 107th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. "We're getting excited to get things going. Our first few days we'll be sorting things out. The morale is high from both the pilot and the maintenance side. We didn't mobilize anybody as over 200 members volunteered."

"We're able to dramatically increase the scope of the mission due to increased capability," Colonel Schmidt added.

"We'll be doing long-range missions and have the ability to carry precision-guided munitions," he added.

The Colonel said the terrain should not be a problem as the landscape resembles several areas of Michigan, their home and training ground.

All in all, they are happy to be here supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams*

**The first F-16 Fighting Falcon from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., arrived at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, March 1, 2004. F-16s are replacing A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft of the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The base is now home to the only operational squadron of F-16s in Iraq.**

## ATSO training

**Tech. Sgt. Stephen Jakle, 127 Civil Engineer Squadron readiness manager, explains the correct procedure for decontamination at the ATSO Rodeo held during March's UTA to Senior Master Sgt. William Mullaly (middle) and Senior Airman Jason Schultz (right).**



*Photo by Senior Airman Alec Lloyd*

## Commander's, *continued from page 2*

What should you be doing to prepare? Know your wartime job! This is what "operational readiness" is all about. For those of you currently serving overseas, those of you who have been deployed recently and have returned, or those of you I mentioned earlier who just "deployed" everyone else, you're getting or you've had first-hand, day-to-day training in this area. However, because this is going to be an inspection in an artificial wartime environment, there are other things we need to know too, such as Inspector General rules of engagement, IG approved simulations, IG expectations,

and more. To learn these "rules of the game," you have a unit representative who is making contact with your IG counterpart. It is critical that units establish a one-on-one relationship with their IG counterparts so they fully understand what they're looking for and what they expect from us.

Our Installation Readiness Working Group (IRWG) and our Installation Readiness Board are two groups of functional representatives preparing each of our units for this upcoming inspection.

If you have any questions about the role you play, please contact your IRWG

representative. If you would like more information on ACC inspections, you can visit the website for the Air Combat Command Inspector General at <https://wwwmil.acc.af.mil/ig> (this is a secure site).

Operational readiness is everyone's primary responsibility. Know your wartime mission and perform to the absolute best of your ability. You are sure to excel, whether you are at home or abroad. Godspeed to those deployed and God bless the 127th Wing!

**Airman  
Don Berry Jr.**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Detroit

**Staff Sgt.  
Steven Coughran**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Saginaw, Mich.

**Tech. Sgt.  
Tamara Dumaw**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Pinkney, Mich.

**Airman 1st Class  
Jason Hilliard**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Detroit

**Senior Airman  
Lonny Lanway**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Alpena, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
David Long**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Harrison Township, Mich.

**Staff Sgt.  
Jeremy Lueck**



Unit: 127th Maintenance Squadron  
Hometown: Mt. Clemens, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
David McDonald**



Unit: 127th Security Forces Squadron  
Hometown: Garden City, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
Andrew Melnyczenko**



Unit: 127th Medical Squadron  
Hometown: Sterling Hts., Mich.

**Staff Sgt.  
Andrew Miller**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Wixom, Mich.

**Staff Sgt.  
Sean Monaghan**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Rochester, Mich.

**Airman 1st Class  
Antonio Principato**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Dearborn, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
Angel Rios**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Airman 1st Class  
Ryan Sabo**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Macomb, Mich.

**Staff Sgt.  
Philip Spadley**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Post Falls, Idaho.

**Staff Sgt.  
Gaines Stevens**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Memphis, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
Randy Tumidajewicz**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Saint Clair Shores, Mich.

**Senior Airman  
Joann Wright**



Unit: 127th Medical Squadron  
Hometown: Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Staff Sgt.  
James Yarrington**



Unit: 127th Wing  
Hometown: Big Rapids, Mich.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## 2004 UTA DATES

<i>May 1-2</i>	<i>Sept. 18-19</i>
<i>June 12-13</i>	<i>Oct 16-17</i>
<i>July 17-18</i>	<i>Nov 6-7</i>
<i>August 28-29</i>	<i>Dec 11-12</i>

## ALS FLIGHT CHIEF POSITION

The Airman Leadership School has an opening for the flight chief position. The requirements are:

E-7 through E-9 or Technical Sergeant soon to be promoted

Attended at least one in-resident PME course

Available to attend a 4-week PME instructor course

Minimum of an Associate Degree

Skilled in time management, communication and human relations

Have a desire to impact the careers of our future leaders

The primary purpose of the Flight

Chief is to manage and supervise the educational, evaluation, faculty development, and instructional programs of Airman Leadership School according to USAF Enlisted PME policies.

If you are interested in interviewing for this position, please contact CMSgt Cheryl Luts, 110 FW/HRA, DSN: 580-3478, COMM: 269-963-0556 or email a resume and bio to Cheryl.Luts@mibatt.ang.af.mil.

## DINING FACILITY RESUMES

### REGULAR LUNCH HOURS

The 127th Services Flight will resume regular dining facility lunch schedule as of the April 2004 UTA. Lunch will be served between 11a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

## WING CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Wing Change of Command ceremony is scheduled for June 12, 2004. Time and location are yet to be determined.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Ms. Sally Vickery, a volunteer with the 127th Wing Family Readiness Group (FRG), was noted as a superstar from the first day she volunteered. Now she has been declared the Michigan Air National Guard FRG 2004 Volunteer of the Year.

Vickery was awarded the title during the FRG State Conference held in Midland, Mich., in February. On hand to present the award was Michigan's Adjutant General Major General Thomas G. Cutler. "I've never had anything like this happen to me in my lifetime," stated the outstanding volunteer.

According to Pam Harris, 127th Wing Family Readiness Group director, "Sally has been a sturdy rock for the office, performing office assistant duties, helping with deployments, and keeping in touch with families of deployed members."

If you would like more information on how to become involved with the 127th FRG, contact the office at (586)307-5583.

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**First Class**

